

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 /083 W
-----282242Z 036743 /14

O 281603Z APR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3237
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USDEL MBFR VIENNA
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 2484
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR: DATA DISAGGREGATION

SUMMARY: SPC MEETING ON MBFR ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR
APRIL 28 HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO MAY 5 PER DUTCH REQUEST.
FRG DELEGATION OFFICER INDICATED TO US CONTINUED FRG
SUPPORT FOR DUTCH PROPOSAL FOR AN UNCLASSIFIED NATO DATA
PUBLICATION TO PERMIT INTRODUCTION OF WESTERN DATA WITHOUT
ACTUALLY TABLING IT. UK DELEGATION OFFICER INFORMED US
THAT MAIN CONCLUSION OF APRIL 25-26 LONDON POLICY REVIEW
OF MBFR, WHICH HE ATTENDED, WAS THAT IT WOULD BE WORTH
CONSIDERABLE EXPENDITURE OF TIME IN EFFORT TO BRING
FRG AROUND ON TABLING OF NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS, RATHER THAN
TO GO FORWARD WITH ONE OF THE ALTERNATIVES. UK REMAINS
STRONGLY OPPOSED TO DUTCH PROPOSAL. DUTCH REP TELLS US HE
HAS DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY FROM THE HAGUE QUIETLY TO DROP
THE DUTCH PROPOSAL. THE HAGUE IS NOW WORKING ON A NEW
COMPROMISE, OUTLINED IN THIS MESSAGE. ACTION REQUESTED:
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SEE PARA 7 BELOW. END SUMMARY.

1. SPC MEETING ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 28
HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO MAY 5, PER REQUEST OF DUTCH DELEGA-
TION. WE ACQUIESCED SINCE NOTHING IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN IN
SPC UNTIL AFTER THE US-FRG BILATERAL.
2. IN DISCUSSION WITH FRG DELEGATION OFFICER CITRON ON THE
EVENING OF APRIL 26, THE LATTER STRESSED HIS REGRET THAT
THE US HAD APPARENTLY REJECTED THE DUTCH PROPOSAL FOR AN

UNCLASSIFIED DATA PUBLICATION TO PERMIT INTRODUCTION OF WESTERN DATA WITHOUT ACTUALLY TABLING IT. HE NOTED THAT THE FRG CONSIDERED IT A VERY GOOD BASIS FOR COMPROMISE. WE REPLIED THAT WE HAD STATED, AS HAD SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS, REASONS WHY WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE DUTCH PROPOSAL A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE TABLING OF NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS. WE SAID WE WERE SURE THE US WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ANY REASONS OFFERED TO THE CONTRARY. WE NOTED THAT NO COUNTRY HAD ENDORSED THE DUTCH "COMPROMISE" BESIDES THE FRG.

3. UK DELEGATION OFFICER JANVRIN BRIEFED US APRIL 27 ON THE RESULTS OF UK REVIEW OF MBFR WHICH HE ATTENDED IN LONDON APRIL 25-26. PARTICIPANTS IN THE REVIEW INCLUDED FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTRY MBFR OFFICIALS, AND MEMBERS OF VIENNA DELEGATION INCLUDING AMBASSADOR BOLLAND. MAIN SUBJECT WAS NEXT STEP ON DATA EXCHANGE, AND CONCLUSION WAS REAFFIRMATION THAT THERE IS NO GOOD ALTERNATIVE TO TABLING OF NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS AS NEXT STEP: UK BELIEVES IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE TO SPEND A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME IN EFFORT TO BRING FRG AROUND, RATHER THAN TO GO FORWARD WITH ONE OF THE ALTERNATIVES. IN PARTICULAR, THE UK IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE DUTCH PROPOSAL, WHICH WOULD BE A BAD MISTAKE, AND WOULD CAUSE VERY SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FROM THE NEGOTIATING STANDPOINT.

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4. DUTCH DELEGATION OFFICER MEESMAN HAS INFORMED US THAT HE HAS DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY FROM THE HAGUE QUIETLY TO DROP THE DUTCH PROPOSAL. THE HAGUE CAN SEE THAT ITS EFFORT AT A COMPROMISE HAS BEEN ENDORSED ONLY BY THE FRG. THE HAGUE IS NOW WORKING ON A NEW COMPROMISE PROPOSAL. MEESMAN HAD BEEN INVITED TO MEETINGS ON THIS PROPOSAL IN THE HAGUE THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 27 AND MORNING OF APRIL 28. THIS WAS WHY HE HAD SUGGESTED POSTPONEMENT OF THE SPC MEETING, IN ADDITION TO THE FACT THAT ONLY ONE DAY BETWEEN MEETINGS WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED DELEGATIONS TO GET NEW GUIDANCE FROM CAPITALS. THE NEW DUTCH PROPOSAL MIGHT BE READY IN TIME FOR SPC MEETING MAY 5.

5. MEESMAN SAID THE NEW DUTCH COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WOULD INVOLVE MERGING THE TABLING OF NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS WITH A FUNCTIONAL APPROACH. EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT WOULD TABLE ITS FIGURE ON GROUND FORCES NOT AS A TOTAL, BUT DIVIDED INTO HEADQUARTERS, COMBAT, COMBAT SUPPORT AND SERVICE SUPPORT. THUS THE SPOTLIGHT WOULD NOT BE EXCLUSIVELY ON NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS, BUT ALSO ON FUNCTIONAL BREAKDOWN. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE DUTCH PLANNED TO DO WITH AIR MANPOWER UNDER THIS APPROACH. HE SAID THERE WERE PEOPLE IN THE HAGUE OPPOSED TO A NEW DUTCH COMPROMISE INITIATIVE.

6. WE RECALLED TO MEESMAN US REASONS AGAINST STARTING OUT WITH FUNCTIONAL APPROACH, INCLUDING THE DIFFICULTY OF AGREEING WITH THE EAST ON DEFINITION OF SUCH CATEGORIES, AND LACK OF REASONS FOR THE EAST TO COME TO SUCH AGREEMENT. EVEN THE FRG SEEMS TO HAVE DROPPED IDEA OF STARTING OUT WITH FUNCTIONAL BREAKDOWN. WE ALSO QUESTIONED ADVISABILITY

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 2484

OF A NEW DUTCH COMPROMISE PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME. MANY ALLIES, LIKE THE DUTCH, HOPE THE FRG WILL BE ABLE TO GO ALONG WITH TABLING OF NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS, BUT THE LAST DUTCH COMPROMISE PROPOSAL HAS NOT PROVED HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD. MEESMAN SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS. THE DUTCH STILL HOPED THE FRG WOULD COME ALONG ON NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS. THE IMPETUS IN THE HAGUE FOR COMPROMISE PROPOSALS CAME FROM MBFR OFFICIALS WISHING TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THE PRESENT IMPASSE WITHOUT TOO MUCH DAMAGE TO THE ALLIANCE POSITION. HE SAID HE WOULD STAY IN TOUCH REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF ANY NEW COMPROMISE PROPOSALS. HE NOTED THAT THE FRG WAS NOT AWARE OF THE CONTENT OF THE PROSPECTIVE NEW DUTCH PROPOSAL.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IN VIEW OF CONTINUED STRONG UK SUPPORT FOR US POSITION ON NATIONAL SUB-TOTALS, WE BELIEVE US SHOULD BRIEF UK THROUGH EMBASSY LONDON ON RESULTS OF MAY 3 US-FRG BILATERAL; IF THE BILATERAL MEETING
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DESIGNATES RUTH TO STOP OFF IN LONDON TO DO THE BRIEFING, WE BELIEVE US SHOULD STILL GIVE UK AT LEAST SHORT STATEMENT

OF OUR CURRENT VIEWS. STREATOR

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